REMARKS

These remarks are submitted in reply to the Office Action dated Decmeber 11, 2006. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111.

I. Claims 1 - 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, in claim 1, line 6, "said block defining a plurality of through holes" was considered misleading since the preamble is limited to a "single block resonator" which has a single through hole in each dielectric block (see fig. 1, each dielectric block 102, 104 has a single through hole 115, 125). Claim 4, lines 4 5, also was considered to have the same indefiniteness.

Applicant respectfully submits that preamble does not provide "a single block resonator" but rather "a signal block resonator". Further, applicant respectfully submits that as shown in the figures, an embodiment of the present invention provides for a monoblock and 102 and 104 as provided at page 9, line 12 are two resonators in the monoblock. Each resonator has a single through hole and two resonators are included in the block. Applicant submits this traverses the section 112 rejection.

II. In claim 3, "metallization of tunable varactors deposited via a photodefinable process" was considered vague and indefinite as to how tunable varactors are metallized. Applicant has canceled claim 3 rendering the rejection moot. However, Applicant notes that the elements of claim

3 have been incorporated into claim 1 but clarified as follows: "wherein said metallization includes varactor mounting pads attaching tunable varactors by using mask patterns for coupling lines and said varactors mounting pads.."

Further, claim 11 has been amended to correct any antecedent basis issues.

III. In claim 5, lines 18 - 21, "said electrode pattern consisting of a photodefinable metallization ... converted to a photodefined patterned metallization" could not be understood as to what is meant by "converted". Also, claims 6, 9 and 10 also have the same indefiniteness. In claim 7, line 10, and claim 8, line 14, "said metallization" was considered confusing as to which metallization referring to.

Applicant has deleted the text "converted to a photodefined patterned metallization on at least one surface of said dielectric material" in the relevant claims. Also, claims 7 and 8 have been amended to include "said photodefinable metallization covering at least one surface of said block of dielectric material ~~metallization.~~"

IV. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kitajima et al. (US '721). Claims 1, 2, 4 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kitazawa et al. (JP 10 032403, insofar as understood). Claims 1 3, and 5 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Newell et al. (US '215). Claims 1, 4 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Arakawa (US'808). Claims 5 7, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Endou et al. (US Pat. Appi. Pub. '973).

As applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include, "wherein said metallization includes varactor mounting pads attaching tunable varactors by using mask patterns for coupling lines and said varactors mounting pads."

Further, independent claim 5 and independent claim 10 have been amended to include, "wherein said metallization includes varactor mounting pads to incorporate tunable varactors via said photodefinable process".

As provided in the specification, an embodiment of the present invention provides for in the metallization the incorporation of varactors and more specifically varactor mounting pads. Applicant submits that none of the cited art enables varactors to be incorporated therein and thus submits with the present amendment, the 102 rejections have bee traversed.

V. Claims 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newell et al. (US '215) in view of Kosugi et al. (EP 208,424). Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newell et al. (US '215) or Arakawa (US '808) in view of Endou et al. (US Pat. App. Pub. '973).

Applicant respectfully submits that Newell et al., nor Kosugi et al, nor Arakawa teach or suggest varactors or varactor pads to connect and utilize varactors with any embodiments of the cited art. Thus, Applicant believes that with the amendment of independent claims 1, 5 and 10, that those claims and claims that depend therefrom are in condition for allowance.

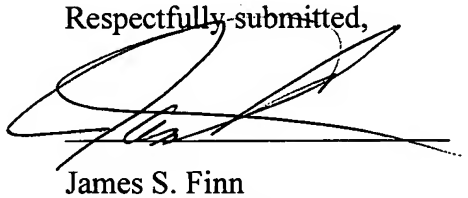
Conclusion

From the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action.

If the Examiner believes, for any reasons, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the following number: 202-607-4607.

The USPTO is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 502697 any fees associated with this response.

Respectfully submitted,



James S. Finn
Reg. No. 38,450

C/O Bill Tucker
14431 Goliad Dr., Box #8
Malakoff, TX 75148
202/607-4607